

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, November 7, 1888, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County Cape Breton, N.S. Nov. 7th, 1888. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Alec heard from you this morning. In your letter you say that he has always been from home when I have written, so I take this opportunity to write while he is safe at home, at this present moment in the bath tub! He is very well and full of love for and interest in his father and mother, but his mind is fully occupied just now with his caribou and his census work.

After all I am going to ??xee with my father, if he will wait for me. I am very much pleased as I have always wanted to go and like travelling with my father very much. Of course we are very sorry to leave our home so much sooner than we intended and while it is still so warm and pleasant. In the midst of our glorious Indian summer, one beautiful day succeeding another, we pity you in your unsettled weather. Perhaps however, you will have the advantage of us now, it looks considerably like snow today. The children report our second freeze in the harbor this morning, but our house is so warm and comfortable I can scarcely believe it can be cold out. I haven't been out today myself as I have rather a disagreeable cold, caught I suppose by having to wait in a cold room in my wet things after walking all round the head of the bay from Beinn Bhreagh to Crescent Grove during a rain storm and aggravated next day by standing on wet ground to see Alec help Mr. McInnis catch sheep. Elsie also 2 is coughing, but the rest of us are very well. Tuesday we gave a dancing party to the young people of Baddeck and I think the guests, as well as ourselves, enjoyed it although they were horribly shy at first and none of them could dance. Two of the young men were called away suddenly at the last moment after having accepted and Alec doubts their courage gave out at the last moment. However we managed to pull our

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friends through the Virginia reel, the Galop, Lansers and country dance and we wound up with singing and magic lantern entertainment. Yesterday Elsie and Daisy gave their first lessons in crochet to two young girls from the school at Beinn Bhreagh. There are two other girls, but the teacher said when the time came for them to start they were so frightened that they burst out crying and would not go. The two who came were pretty well scared, but when the lesson, the Punch and Judy show and the tea were over they were exceedingly unwilling to go and very ready to promise to return on Saturday.

No wonder you were surprised to hear of our being “nearly wrecked by an avalanche from the roof of our house” — so was I this morning! Some time ago, before Alec went to Boston and while Aileen was here, the bathroom tank did burst, flooding the kitchen but that was all. Our bathroom with it's plentiful supply of hot and ice cold water is the greatest comfort and although the pipe is not below frost line we think the water will run as long as we want it to.

Alec's caribou is a beautiful gentle doe. The male was a magnificent fellow with big branching horns, but so strong that five men worked in vain two days to bring him out of the woods and they 3 were obliged to kill him. His head and horns will ornament our chimney next summer, I hope.

I am so sorry to hear of Aileen's misfortune. I hope she may have forgotten all about it by this time.

Please remember me with love to all at your house and Mrs. David Bell's.

Affectionately, Mabel.